BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. VI May 1, 1938 No. 9

FICTION

MUST BOOKS

May ~~23~~ 26

Swanson, Neil THE FORBIDDEN GROUND Farrar & Rinehart

** A grand yarn - the best of Neil Swanson, and that is high praise from one who has read with avidity his historical novels as each appeared. Once again he has selected a bit of fairly unfamiliar historical background and setting for his story - this time the section over which the British and the Northwestern Company, fur traders, held sway, while the American Revolution rumbled over the border, and the French Canadians looked longingly backward toward their own supremacy in Canada, their own rapidly vanishing control of the rich fur trade. Henry Hamilton was the royal governor; Gorth had gained control of the fur trade, under protection of the crown, and from Grand Portage to Lake of the Woods, he was king by right of force. This is a story of the MacGregors - Scotch and French, and of Merrily Gorth who used her sex to capture the heart and imagination of a rival fur trader, and of Sally Conable, whose rescue meant exile to Baril MacGregor, but who proved a staunch comrade in time of need. Exciting adventure; a thread of sheer romance; and bits of the primitive frontier history of "De Troit" and the great Northwest. Fast pace, vigorous writing, and an absorbing tale. Good escape reading, and at the same time a real contribution to Americana. Roberts' market, etc. $2.50

July ~~7~~ 11

Rinehart, Mary Roberts THE WALL Farrar & Rinehart

* Mrs. Rinehart's mystery novels sell in the fiction section as well as the mystery section and since this is a sure best seller for the dog days, it ranks in this group. The setting is ideal for a mid-summer story - an island resort off, presumably, the coast of Maine; a murder of a woman hated and loved and feared by too many of the community to make a tie-up of motive and means and accessibility to the scene of the crime, sure clues to the identity of her murderer. The unravelling of the mystery - and of the subsequent murders - by the local sheriff, fills in the stories of many of the summer residents and contributes to the fulfillment of the romance between the teller of the story and the mysterious painter chap from the trailer camp. First rate thriller, with a few extraneous bits for atmosphere, good suspense, and a fair solution. $2.00

Two Names as Clues to Sales in

A new Erskine Caldwell, SOUTHWAYS (Viking), for his special market; and a new Vincent Sheean, A DAY OF BATTLE (Doubleday, Doran). Dark horse possibilities scarce as hen's teeth at this season. See below for reports on above titles.

NOTE

Your big sales chance for May comes with the May 2nd announcement of the Pulitzer Prize awards. Tie-up with National Bookseller Awards and Critics' Award for window display, special tables, individual promotion.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

June 7

Henry, Harriet NO MORE, NO LESS Dutton

First rate renter, with modern touch, a bit more subtlety in overtones than the casual hammock fare, sympathetic handling of ticklish subject, natural and up to the trigger dialogue, good timing in plot structure. A story of a marriage on the verge of breaking up when Fate intervenes, and forces its continuance. Then the long drawn-out tragedy of a loveless marriage, with loyalty to a wrecked man on one side, and a sadistic impulse of pure selfishness on the other, even to the way of death at the end. But it works out plausibly in the last analysis, and the dead man's hand loses its power. $2.50

Tikhonov, Valentin THE MOUNTAINS AND THE STARS Little, Brown

Although listed as fiction, there is little evidence of a formulated plot, or even of characterization, as is to be expected in a novel. It seems to be based on authentic material, in a day by day account of a Cossack regiment wandering across the steppes, a record of daily brutalities within the regiment, a concerted effort to combat the three scourges - Jews, Chinese and Reds. Rapine - scourging - deaths at the stake - soldiers, civilians and enemy suffering alike. The slender thread of story concerns itself with two boys of eleven and thirteen who have run away from home to join the cavalry, and many of the most brutal scenes are witnessed by them. There is needless and typically Russian - repugnant detail. There is power, of sorts. But, all in all, it is tedious reading, and difficult to see why it should appeal to any market. $2.50

June 13

von Hutten, Baroness YOUTH WITHOUT GLORY Dutton

Can't see where this author has her pull with the rental audience - unless through her title. Her style is pseudo-witty, stilted, a bit Victorian; her original situations are better conceived than the slow-motion development. This is no exception. This is the story of a woman who emerges from 20 years in a mental hospital, sane, but with no memory of her past and no change in her appearance. The attempt to explain her as a grand-niece blows up when her ex-husband appears, and the situation is further confused by her falling in love with a girlhood sweetheart. Ultimately she regains her identity and all is well. Not wholly convincing and badly constructed. But - she does rent. $2.00

June 17

Caldwell, Erskine SOUTHWAYS Viking

Short stories, sketches, etc. In part, second string Caldwell, when compared to *Kneel to the Rising Sun*. They seem on the whole pretty thin, though occasionally one finds the old Caldwell, flashback here and there of power and intensity in pictures of poor whites, bums, lost souls - black and white. The best story of the lot is *A Knife to Cut the Cornbread With*. Grim implications in many are concealed with deliberate lightness of tone, but when writing in his own vein, there is the same relentless irony and depth of emotional content. $2.50

June 20

Carleton, Patrick UNDER THE HOG Dutton

A bit slow getting under way, but once started it is good reading and a vigorous picture of the havoc wrought by the Wars of the Roses, interweaving of international strings, treachery, conflict between nobles and kings. Historical interpretation rather than historical fiction. A sympathetic picture of Richard III, showing him betrayed by his loyalty to Edward IV - the victim of forces beyond his control, even to his implication in the death of the Princes in the Tower. Interesting material, detailed in handling, and dealing with a period which is confusing to many readers. $2.50

Dunn, Violette Kimball MARRYING MARK Dutton

For those who want a simple, heart-warming story, fairy-tale pattern and quality, this is an answer. The story of a widower and step-daughter, learning to know each other for the first time after the death of the domineering mother - and of the youthful governess, forced into a difficult position by the women, eager to capture the wealthy widower. Rental library hot weather reading. $2.00

July 22 August Literary Guild

Sheean, Vincent A DAY OF BATTLE Doubleday, Doran

* A microscopic study of a fragment of almost forgotten history - a detailed picture of the Battle of Fontenoy, in which Marshall Saxe won a costly victory over the British. As a study of battle in 1745 in sharp contrast to battle today, this is quite fascinating. The armies were largely mercenaries, so both sides contained Germans, Scotch and so on, while the Irish fought merely to fight against the English, and the Dutch to fight against the French. Glimpses of scenes here and there and everywhere, behind the front lines; an unforgettable word picture of Louis XV, eager for victory to report to his new mistress, Jeannette Le Normant d'Étioles, soon to be named La Pompadour; a most unflattering picture of the ambitious and unscrupulous Richelieu - all against an opera bouffe setting, with piquancy and interest loaned by the individual bits of drama. Paralleling the story of the battle, is shown the same day in the life of the young and lovely Jeannette, under the tutelage of Abbe Bernis and learning through Voltaire wherein lies her power. The book is the result of amazing familiarity with the detail and the period. The story is secondary. $2.50

July 5

Hulme, Kathryn WE LIVED AS CHILDREN Knopf

* A picture of a San Francisco childhood as lived by children of divorced parents, walking the tightrope between adjustment to the father living in luxury, and the mother in real poverty, putting up a brave front. A story of gradual balancing of the two, of a climb-up from the slums to better living conditions, of the bits of life on the father's ranch, of playmates and childhood episodes, of the earthquake and great fire, of the war and its part in their development. Good reading, somewhat episodic in character - a backward look to a tomboy childhood, as told by the younger sister, and of years filled with appealing incident, skilfully presented. A distinctly memborable book. $2.50

July 18

Traven, B. THE BRIDGE IN THE JUNGLE Knopf

Doubtful whether this can secure more than a limited sale, to a discriminating audience. There is none of the rawness, the sheer adventure element of his earlier work, though it, too, has its macabre details. A simple enough story, secondary to the picture of life in a Central American jungle. The story centers

around the loss of a child, and the finding of his body in the river, of the pagan funeral, with anachronisms of modernity interwoven, presented with an uncanny sensitivity to a strange civilization, primitive, fatalistic, garish. The story is a condemnation of the infiltration of cheap Americanisms, for which the native Indians are unprepared. Convincing, powerfully done - but limited in appeal. $2.50

July 15

Baptist, R. H. LOVE AT THE MISSION Little, Brown

Entirely dissimilar in theme and handling from the prize-winning novelette,- *Cargo of Parrots*, this is a semi-symbolic, semi-melodramatic story of a Swiss pastor and his three Amazonian daughters in an East African mission. The father is a drab, dreary drone, resenting the intrusion of his motherless daughters. The two older girls are the victims of his inhumanity; the eldest one poisons her father to save her younger sisters and pays the penalty. Actuality in picture of the desolate life - but the style is somewhat mannered, though poetic and challenging at times. The author has not quite found himself yet, but he has undeniable talent and originality. $2.50

Received Too Late for Inclusion in Earlier Issues

Published

Shiraeff, Peter FLATTERY'S FOAL Knopf

The changes from old to new Russia are symbolized in the story of a mare, Flattery, and her foal. Trained by a penniless but gifted trainer, Flattery is sold to a Count who wishes to carry on her line, rather than to use her on the race track. Comes the Revolution - Flattery falls to a simple peasant as a workhorse. But her value is recognized, she is bred to an American stallion, and the colt is discovered by her old trainer and ultimately wins the Moscow cup. As a horse story it is excellent; the double entendre, the stress on standards of old Russian and new, the lack of cohesion, the introduction of sordid detail - all tend to take it out of the horse story market. $2.50

Croft-Cooke, Rupert ESCAPE TO THE ANDES Messner

Entertaining enough reading, if somewhat theatrical. The coming of an uncommunicative stranger to a small town in the Andes precipitates a general feeling of tension since they cannot figure his reasons for wishing to settle there. They plot his death, and almost succeed - and his plans for a marriage with a native girl are tragically terminated, so he returns to the artificiality of fame and London. $2.50

MYSTERIES, WESTERNS AND THRILLERS

June 9

Keeler, Harry Stephen BEHIND THAT MASK Dutton

Further angles on the events set in motion by the 13th coin of Confucius, rehashing the murder of *Ultrapolitan's* editor and producing yet another murderer. Closely linked with *Finger Finger* but not dependent on it. Chicago setting. $2.00

June 16

Cullum, Ridgwell ONE WHO KILLS Lippincott

Northwest Saskatchewan adventure yarn, in which twin brothers pursue different careers, one with the Mounties, the other with gold seekers. Circumstances puts one on the trail of the other. Somewhat wooden in style. $2.00

June 20

Brand, Max SINGING GUNS Dodd, Mead

Near tops in Western material - romance, adventure, treasure and a flair of mystery, all with original bends here and there when the Nevada Bad Man goes hand in hand with the sheriff on a straight path, gets enmeshed in a family feud, and comes out with the right girl after the beauty plays him wrong. $2.00

Rhode, John INVISIBLE WEAPONS Dodd, Mead

Dr. Priestley again is deus ex machina in helping Waghorn and Hanslet of Scotland Yard solve two deaths, apparently unrelated. He finds the means of killing and supplies the motive and hands the criminal into their hands. Guessable even if there are many unsuspected facts uncovered. $2.00

Roche, Arthur Somers A LADY OF RESOURCE Dodd, Mead

Ruined by the crash, socialite Collette forswears the girl he loves, fails to get a job, but does get involved in the doings of his bootlegger, Nan Grannis, who loves him. Piracy aboard a yacht lands all three at the mercy of a gang, but they escape, and Collette finally gets his gal, with a clear conscience. Flabby hero, slimmish stuff. $2.00

July 1

Charteris, Leslie PRELUDE FOR WAR Doubleday, Doran

* The Saint gets involved in international affairs again and is instrumental in keeping France from war for the moment. A fire puts The Saint on the trail, and ultimately he wrecks the plans of a master mind among munition makers. Although he has his detractors, we always find The Saint good entertainment. Cosmo $2.00

Hendryx, James B. BLOOD OF THE NORTH Doubleday, Doran

A story of a half-breed turned against his white brothers by their brand of so-called civilization. When the murderer of his Scotch father is freed by the jury that takes the word of a white man against a half-breed, he turns wholly Indian, and schemes to involve the murderer in another murder for which he, though innocent, is convicted. Then falls the intrusion of high pressure business, and Angus outwits them, even at the expense of his childhood sweetheart. She proves true - and joins him at his trading post. The book is episodic in character. Ran in a periodical under title *White Blood and Red.* $2.00

Howes, Royce MURDER AT MANEUVERS Doubleday, Doran

Fairish story of a murder of a Russian representative at a war games camp. Civilian Ben Lucias given free rein to find the killer - and does so in spite of slim evidence. $2.00

July 15

Cameron, Caddo AT THE END OF A TEXAS ROPE Doubleday, Doran

Sergeant Wilson and Private Coe of the Texas Rangers ride again, in the Badlands over the Border. Against tremendous odds, they run down the toughest rustlers in the county, strengthen the hands of the honest ranchers, and eventually find the ring-leader of the band. Chock full of fighting and suspense. A 1 Western. $2.00

NON-FICTION

MUST BOOKS

May 25

Adamic, Louis MY AMERICA: 1928-1938 Harper

* This is not, in the usual sense, an autobiography, though one can draw from it the main thread of the events in Louis Adamic's personal life between the two dates indicated, so that with *The Native's Return* one has a fairly complete picture of one man's adaptation to his new country as well as his new perspective on his land. Personally, this book seems to me more in the nature of an analysis of America as it appears to Louis Adamic, who makes himself a sounding board for the turmoil of social, political, economic and human happenings of a decade. He goes back into the causes, as for example in his study of the MacNamara case in Los Angeles as groundwork for subsequent approach to the changes in the labor set-up of recent years. The text is filled with human interest material, with pen portraits of some of the important figures in our national life, with word studies of all sorts and conditions of men and women, met in his travels the country over. Taken as a whole, it is an extraordinarily full and vibrant picture of the dominant rhythms of today. There are some phases almost completely ignored, but the relations of capital and labor, the race problems, these are challenges to every native born American. The book is uneven in interest and importance, episodic and at times fragmentary in method, but undoubtedly will prove one of the most discussed books of the late Spring season. $3.75

June 6

Ludwig, Emil ROOSEVELT: *A Study in Fortune and Power* Viking

This material appeared in somewhat different and abridged form in *Liberty*. Frankly, it is a disappointment, for it seems to be unnecessarily lacking in critical approach, superficial in analysis of Roosevelt as an executive and administrator, and at many minor points inaccurate. Thoroughly readable - this one expects of Ludwig - and a sympathetic, dramatic human portrait. There is a good deal of space devoted to Roosevelt's youth and equipment for later life; a good deal of stress on his illness and the part it has played in strengthening his character. The portrait, as a whole, is distinctly favorable, at times unreservedly so. Compared with the Lindley books, it seems hasty and unbalanced. Fully illustrated. $3.00

Uncertain date May 23 -

Schuschnigg, Kurt MY AUSTRIA Knopf

A very important and timely book, the text of which had been finished just before Hitler's unexpected move. How unprepared Austria was for it, is evidenced in the note of hope on which Schuschnigg ends. Perhaps before the book is published, the editors will be able to add something definite as to his fate. Meantime, this stands as documentary evidence of his creed - of the ideals and aims which motivated a life dedicated to his country. The years covered are those of the war and afterwards - up to the recent months. It is only indirectly an autobiography; the whole emphasis is on the political and economic and social unrest of these fateful years. Not easy reading, it assumes a fairly comprehensive understanding of Austria's internal situations and place in Europe; without that background, it would need very close and critical attention to unravel the intricacies of plots and counterplots, of conflicting social and national and economic forces which have ravaged Austria since 1918. In any case, it is an essential book for anyone interested in central European conditions today. $3.00

A DARK HORSE POSSIBILITY

~~Late June or July 15~~ august 19 BOM Sept Dual Choice

Halsey, Margaret WITH MALICE TOWARDS SOME Simon & Schuster

* In E. M. Delafield's *Provincial Lady* vein, a professor's wife recounts her impressions on her first trip abroad, at the time of her husband's exchange professorship with a staff member of a Devonshire college. She is all eyes for new sights and this is a readable, entertaining account of places, people, and life around her. There is a jaunt to Norway and Sweden, there is a Christmas trip to Paris; and there is above all the major part dealing with the experiences in Devonshire. Through the pages of her diary the reader shares her experiences:- the house they rent, the neighbors' gossip, teas, dinners, difficulties in adapting herself to what is expected of her, her husband's dry humor and flawless behavior, amusing commentary, honest likes and dislikes, all with skilled and original (sometimes overly so) turn of phrase. You can have fun with this and sell it to customers as a personal recommendation. $2.50

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

May 17

Graubard, Mark MAN, THE SLAVE AND MASTER Covici, Friede
A Biological Approach to Potentialities of Modern Society

A much more readable text than the title would indicate. In spite of the solid background of scientific knowledge, Graubard has presented his material in language and illustration readily comprehensible to the layman. He presents a survey of the facts of modern biology, the results of modern experimentation and then proceeds to apply it to modern society in an optimistic plea for mitigating the severity of nature's cruelty towards man, and man's cruelty towards man. Not wholly convincing - but a challenge. Wide sale to doctors, scientists, college students; some sale to general reading public. $3.50

Sutherland, Halliday LAPLAND JOURNEY Dodd, Mead

The author of *Arches of the Years*, etc. gives a genial account of travels in Finland and Lapland, by train, bus, boat, reindeer, and so on. All sorts of material about food, driving reindeer, baths, bears, fishing, stopping places, daily incidents, history and customs of the country, political situations, health measures, dairying, etc. A vivid picture of the rewards the hardships brought, the fun he had, and the amusement he got from various peculiar situations in which he was involved. Good for sales on the strength of his name - and good entertainment for the armchair traveler. Illustrated. $3.00

May 24

Sullivan, J. W. N. ISAAC NEWTON 1642-1727 Macmillan

The biography of one of the most important of scientists, whose attitude, during the first twenty years of his working life was one of bursts of intense enthusiasm alternating with supreme indifference. As time went on this becamse even more pronounced, the indifference deepening. A meditative, secretive, self-absorbed character, who - in spite of his indifference, won fame through his *Principia* embodying the Law of Gravitation. He fought with fellow scientists - he made numerous contributions to various theories - he held positions of importance. Definitely a book for those interested in scientific biographies, not for a wide general public. $2.50

~~May 25~~ July 28

Edminster, Allen W. GARDENING AS A HOBBY Harper

In spite of the fact that the information is sound and there is much of value in this book, it seems not quite up to the standard of the series. In the first place, I question it as a foundation or first book on gardening. There is nothing of the enthusiasm and inspiration that most gardening books supply; there is too much of the scientific sides of horticulture, there is an assumption of interest and enthusiasm deeper than the normal first steps in gardening. Anyone with a fundamental interest and knowledge of the subject will find it a handy text; beginners would find it beyond their depth. Drawings by Eugen H Peterson. (Add to your Gardening Books index.) $2.50

June 1

Thomas, Jean THE SINGIN' FIDDLER OF LOST HOPE HOLLOW Dutton

The "traipsin' woman" gives a further account of her Kentucky hill people, how the fiddler, blind from birth, learned to see and how he played and sang his way in America and England, how David was made to walk and how his cure and Preacher Job's learning to read ended a feud, how three generations carried on the medical work of the community and more. Human interest stuff, on the sentimental side - good Kentucky mountaineer facet of Americana. Illustrated. $2.50

June 17

Baldwin, Mary H. & Hinds, Evelyn G. THE MARIGOLD COOK BOOK Doubleday, Doran

Recipes based on the cooking in The Marigold at Niagara Falls and The Southern Marigold restaurant in New Orleans. A practical collection of southern recipes, not confined to use in southern kitchens. Covers a wide range, from appetizers, through the meals, to desserts, cakes and cookies, and special sauces. No suggestion of menus or diet; little of aid to the inexperienced cooks. But as an extra cookbook, it may afford variety and interest. $2.00

June 17

Berman, Louis NEW CREATIONS IN HUMAN BEINGS Doubleday, Doran

Those who got their first glimpse of the miracle of the endocrine glands and their influence on character through Berman's *Glands Regulating Personality* will find this book, which goes into the amazing developments in that field of medical science in recent years, absorbing reading. An important book for the layman with some background and the doctors who have not kept up to the minute. A good deal of hope held out for what the future will contribute along the lines of human adjustments through endocrinology. Case histories give human interest to material. ~~Illustrated.~~ $3.00

June 7

Ervine, St. John ROBERTS' WIFE: *A Comedy in Three Acts* Macmillan

One set, English vicar's home, the background for a family problem. Should the vicar's wife continue her own career at the expense of her husband's? There is also a son, arrested for sedition, parish dilemmas, and the wife's battle to support her clinic. The solution is precipitated by a parishioner in love with the vicar. Good for amateur groups with some experience. $1.50

June 7

Seligman, Vincent PUCCINI AMONG FRIENDS Macmillan

From personal friendship and over seven hundred letters from Puccini to his mother, the author has woven a very human picture of the composer, from 1904 to 1921. His searches for libretto material, his enthusiasms and failures, his joy in work and boredom without it, the scandal that entered his life, comments on others of the musical world, the "executions" of his operas, his passion for automobiles, his modesty, his moods, his "humorous despair", - all appear in this affectionate correspondence whose gaps are filled in with biographical links. A book for musicians as well as the general biography loving public, for its is readable, appealing and intimate. Illustrated. $4.00

June 13

Humphrey, Zephine CACTUS FOREST Dutton

Reviewers have liked her sympathetic interpretation of things seen and done, her homely, unstudied approach, her complete lack of affectation. We happen not to share their enthusiasm, feeling that this sunnyside up kitchen philosophy is a bit sickening. An "everyman's" approach to a trip to Arizona, seeking a cure for her husband's sciatica. They settle in an unknown spot, in a spotless desert bungalow, and commune with the desert and everything and everyone that comes their way. Her version of the desert, climate, landscape, natives, animals, Indians, side trips to the Grand Canyon, the Carlsbad Caverns, California, etc. Then - the cure accomplished - home to Vermont. $2.50

June 20

Common, Jack - Editor SEVEN SHIFTS Dutton

Almost too English to be a fair picture of a cross section of the working man here - this composite picture of how seven men in seven days of life and work, think, plan and follow their trades. The editor has secured a fairly representative group - gas worker, plasterer, steel worker, blast furnace worker, market stallholder - and an unemployed man. Serious thinkers, all of them, more literate than we would expect - and yet in talking of their trades they use a mixture of English slang, semi-technical expressions and literary allusions that somehow seems false. Taken as a whole, it is a picture of men defeated by a system. The most interesting part is that dealing - in each instance - with their viewpoint on social and economic conditions. Somewhat limited, specialized market. $2.50

July 5

Keller, A. G. BRASS TACKS Knopf

Professor of the Science of Society at Yale University describes the evolution of customs developed around labor, capital, property, and goes on to government, war and peace, superstitions, society, marriage and sex, the family, the next generation and education, and the individual and society. It is fundamentals not details he is interested in and he reduces everything to the permanencies that have survived up to the present day, and he advocates these irreducibiles as a groundwork for future progress, a "gradualism" which looks to the past for experience and places the burden of the proof on the future. A non-technical discussion that is easily followed, and meat for the more conservative market. $2.00

Received Too Late for Inclusion in Earlier Bulletin

Published

Bergmann, Franz URIEL FOR PRESIDENT Hale, Cushman & Flint

A stunt book. In pictures, with captions, the angel Uriel is represented as coming to earth, having all sorts of adventures - satiric commentary on humanity and society - and ending up as president. In this capacity, the Lord thinks he is getting too big for his boots and recalls him. Amusing of its kind - but if it doesn't catch on at once, it isn't likely to. $1.50

Everard, John LIVING COLOR Dodge

An English photographer, and an expert in color photography of the nude, presents here some examples of the work he is doing in direct color. The introductory material tells, in somewhat technical fashion, how he gets his results. A book that is valuable only to those who know the professional side of color photography. $3.50

Wilson, Charles Morrow COUNTRY LIVING: *Plus and Minus* Stephen Daye

Another slant on this back to the land proposition, this time from the angle of taking up farming for a livelihood. A farmer by practice and inheritance, the author indicates the pitfalls, charts a method which novices should follow, and places sign-posts which may encourage some hardy souls, but should discourage many who think that intelligence is more important than apititude, tradition and muscle. Rather good reading - and - in spite of the warning note, rosy spectacled when it comes to results. $2.00

Reed, Douglas INSANITY FAIR Covici, Friede

Another newspaper foreign correspondent tells his tale. Brief survey of his background, brief schooling, odd jobs, war experience - then an account of his life in Central Europe during the post-war years, with focus on Germany's post-war debacle, culminating in the occupation of Austria. His conclusions and forecasts are debatable. The personal slant gives some added interest. But it is not tops - and it has competitors galore. $3.00

Hubbell, Lindley Williams WINTER BURNING Knopf

Simple poetry, lyrical, with for the most part the undercurrent of time lost, "dust to dust" sort of thing - and in that sense futilitarian poetry. The more abstract the theme, the more effective the expression. A few are contingent on actual sights - or figures, and these are less well done. Casual versification, for the most part. A few are provocative and rather nice. $2.00

Bisson, T. A. JAPAN IN CHINA Macmillan

A pedestrian, accurate reporting job covering the progress in China of the Japanese forces, almost week by week. After presenting the facts of the aggressive attack, the author goes back into the conditions leading up to it, of political and military and social and economic conditions in both countries, of international relations, etc. The text lacks completely any dramatic quality, and human interest material. Even the report of the kidnapping of Chiang Kai-Chek is utterly lacking in color. The chief value of this book will be in its methodical reporting of events as they took place, and in its analysis of the reasons why Japan has not made the sweeping victory she anticipated and why China is probably destined to hold her own, and regain much of what she has lost. $3.00

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

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BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

May 1, 1938 Vol. VI No.9

FINAL SPRING JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT

Note: This supplement covers the balance of Spring lists now available. There will be no further juvenile supplements until mid-June. Check February 15, March 1 and March 15 for balance of juvenile information on Spring lists.

FOR THE PICTURE BOOK AGE

Towsley, Lena AT THE BEACH Farrar & Rinehart

Another of this excellent series of photographic picture books dealing with everyday events in the lives of small children. The interest in this is somewhat limited by the subject being confined chiefly to children familiar with the seashore. The pictures and captions follow the adventures of three children on the beach, with the dog and toy horse. Since much of the value of these books for little children lies in identification of familiar objects and activities, children to whom seashore incidents are completely unknown may find this rather meaningless. (Published) $2.00

GRADUATING TO PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Beistle, Mary Alice & Aldarilla S. MR. HEINIE David McKay

Another dachshund story, based on an actual incident in the life of a real dachshund. Here is a pup who accepted and enjoyed the round of his daily activities until he had an unexpected encounter with a bee in his own special garden. Simple text and pictures in color. (Published) $1.00

Evers, Helen & Alf THE PLUMP PIG Rand McNally

In customary vein and pictures, the Evers tell the story of a pig who was unhappy at home because nobody and nothing else on the farm was plump. But his heaven came to him when he was purchased by a chubby farmer for his chubby family. (Published) $ .50

FIRST STEPS IN READING - *Story Books*

Fluery, Barbara THE RUNAWAY DEER Macmillan
Somppi, Lilly - Illustrator

* Here's a book illustrated by the already popular illustrator of *Little Lamb*, with a text that has more substance and more story interest. The story revolves around the adventures of a deer, brought up by humans in a fenced-in park, and loosed by a storm. He had an exciting time but was glad to get back to his safe life. The pictures in soft woodsy tones of browns and grey are beautifully reproduced. (Published) $1.00

Johnson, Enid & Peck, Anne Merriman RUNAWAY BALBOA Harper

* Tropical in atmosphere and story and pictures, this entertaining story of a runaway electric mule who decides to explore the villages and jungles of Canal Zone, manages to convey more feel of the people and the villages and the jungles than many serious books on the subject. (J.L.G. for May) (Published) $2.00

Newman, Gertrude DELICIA AND ADOPHUS Rand McNally

The photographic illustrations showing the adventures of two rag dolls may appeal to children, but the text is mediocre and the book on the whole seems second rate. The rag dolls, their little girl mother, and the adventures in their dolls' house. Photographs by Russell R. Benson. (Published) $ .50

FIRST STEPS IN READING - *Fact Books*

Harkness, Ruth THE BABY GIANT PANDA Carrick & Evans

For young people, Mrs. Harkness has retold the story of the famous Su Lin, whose recent death in the Chicago Zoo saddened the many friends this strange little animal had made. She tells of finding the baby creature, of bringing her from Chinese jungles to San Francisco, then across the continent and back again to Chicago. Illustrated with enchanting photographs. (Published) $2.00

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD (6-9)

Wimberly, Lowry Charles, ed. THE FAMOUS CATS OF FAIRYLAND Dutton

Placed in this section simply because I feel that fairy tales can be enjoyed if read aloud by younger children who lack the mechanical reading ability. Children in the upper brackets (8-9-10) will still enjoy them, so sell to all these ages. The author has tapped not only fairy lore through the medium of the Lang volumes, but has gone to source material in English, Cossack and Japanese tales, to the Brothers Grimm and to Lewis Carroll anda few modern fairy tale tellers. An excellent collection, with the cat appeal perhaps secondary to the stories themselves. (Published) $2.50

STORY BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Cavanah, Frances THE TREASURE OF BELDEN PLACE Albert Whitman

For that first demand for a mystery story - this readable tale of "twin cousins" and their adventures in seeking the secret room and the lost jewels. Not melodrama, but the bit of mystery is a factor in the interest and the bits of Civil War background give a bit more substance than the story might otherwise possess. (Published) $1.50

Morse, Elizabeth THE COCONUT MONKEY Dutton

* Exceptionally good story of the Malay people and the adventures of two small boys of the jungle. The father of one was hired by a white man to care for the animals she had gathered to take back to a city zoo, and through this connection all sorts of incidents developed, opening new channels of activity and thought to the small boys. Good picture of life and background and traditions. Illustrated by Margaret Ayer. (May 16) $2.00

Simon, Charlie May POPO'S MIRACLE Dutton

** I loved it, for not only is it an original and entertaining story of a small boy and a lost donkey, but the Mexican village background is delightful. The donkey could not speak, but he did his part in leading the little village boy who wanted to learn to paint to his master, who was an artist in a town some distance away from the village where the donkey had wandered. Into the story are woven incidents of Mexican life, a fiesta, a wedding, market days, and the round of village activities. Good illustrations. (Published) $2.00

FACT BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Boff, Charles BOYS' BOOK OF THE SEA Dutton

A goldmine of information for the boy interested in every facet of boats and modern invention and activities of the Navy and Merchant Marine. The fact that the author is British and his facts are chiefly drawn from the British Navy and Merchant Marine should be pointed out, but the content is excellent and clearly presented. From giant luxury liners to submarines, torpedo boats, diving equipment of all kinds, the author manages to include all sorts of interesting facts. Illustrated with photographs. (May 2) $2.00

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS

Fiction

Crownfield, Gertrude STRONG HEARTS AND BOLD Lippincott

Miss Crownfield does better than average historical fiction for girls, but somehow her style never quite achieves the professional high water mark of say Constance Skinner or Cornelia Meigs. However, for straight away story telling, she can be highly commended. The story this time deals with the famous Bacon's Rebellion, and the burning of Jamestown. And the story has as its heroine a young daughter of one of the colonists, a rich planter who is captured by the Indians and whose release was the pivot on which the Jamestown folk came to a split with the haughty and arrogant governor. Fresh material, filling a real gap in historical background fiction. Illustrated by Marguerite de Angeli. (Published) $2.00

Kahmann, Chesley LUPE AND THE SENORITA Random House

** I liked *Raquel*. I like this much better. Again a story of Puerto Rico, and one with more sustained girl reader interest. Lupe is a village girl, ambitious above her fellow villagers, and eager to try out on her own household what she is learning in the High School in town. The senorita is the spoiled daughter of the manor, who uses Lupe for her own ends - and gets results other than she has anticipated. Good picture of the life and background, but first and last a good story, with a dash of romance. (J.L.G. for May) (June 1) $2.00

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS

Non-Fiction

Hamilton, Edwin T. TRICK PHOTOGRAPHY Dodd, Mead

Smacks of the commercial - which cannot be said of the other Hamilton craft books. But for boys and girls (adults) who are interested in what photography can do to fool the public, this is a book which tells them how to do it, and illustrates it in numerous photograph samples. (Published) $2.50

Rossbach, C. Edmund MAKING MARIONETTES Harcourt, Brace

It's all there, but the manner of telling is so involved and indirect that it seems to me the book would be valuable only if used with an adult who knew what it was all about, or by those occasional young people who have taken the first steps. Lacks the simplicity and clarity of the Ackley book, for instance, though it is much fuller. Covers not only the types of marionettes and how to make them (along with diagrams), but goes into costumes, scenery, staging, manipulation, acting, etc. Includes three plays. Fully illustrated and very detailed in descriptive matter. (May 5) $2.50

ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS

Fiction

Barret, Leighton THOUGH YOUNG Random House

Young people who like Kenneth Graham's *Golden Age* and other books of that ilk, will enjoy these entertaining reminiscences of a Mississippi childhood. The material is episodic, but there is a slender thread of plot connecting the incidents. For full report see page 159) (June 7) $2.00

Goudge, Elizabeth TOWERS IN THE MIST Coward, McCann

Oxford of the 16th century, characters familiar to every school boy and girl (Raleigh, Sidney, etc.), and the motherless children of Canon Leigh as the central characters. Not a fast paced narrative, but there is much in the story and setting and the account of Queen Elizabeth's visit that will appeal to all ages. (For full report see page 157) (May 20) $2.50

Stern, G. B. THE UGLY DACHSHUND Macmillan

The story of a dog brought up to think he is a dachshund, whose early life is turned awry by his doubts as to his identity. Then he finds he is a Great Dane and not simply an "ugly dachshund". (For full report see page 156) $2.00

Non-Fiction

Fetherstonhaugh, R. C. THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE Carrick & Evans

Good reading in the history of the famous organization, from its founding in 1873 to police the newly opened territory of the Northwest to its present day developments in airplane surveillance, etc. Full of adventure, drama, human interest material. (For full report see page 189) (Published) $3.75

Bell, Margaret THE WOMEN OF THE WILDERNESS Dutton

A vivid recreation of the lives and thoughts of women of the early years of Plymouth, Boston and their daughter colonies. Traces the English background and the coming to these shores and facing the wilderness with all its dangers and loneliness. Traditional figures and less known ones as well. (For full report see page 147) (May 16) $3.50

Leaf, Munro LISTEN LITTLE GIRL Stokes
Before You Come to New York

* In conversational style, the author of *Ferdinand* , discusses the approach to getting a job, the kinds of jobs and the ways of New York living. Honest in facts and figures - full of note of warning - defining necessary qualifications - and showing how the cards are stacked against women. A good book for the vocational shelf in school libraries, particularly away from New York. (For full report see page 163) (May 2) $1.50

Sterne, Emma Gelders EUROPEAN SUMMER Dodd, Mead

* An original travel book, telling of the experiences of a mother and four young people on a sharply defined budget in Europe. Of traveling by car, picnicking as they go, camping out, cutting corners to make extras possible. Holland, Belgium, France, England, the Scandinavian countries - included in the trip. Practical and entertaining reading as well. (For full report see page 144) (Published) $2.00